



GUIDELINE FOR PERMANENT CLOSURE OF USTS

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Division of Waste Management - Underground Storage Tank Program

Rev: 11/02 Telephone (701) 328-5166 Fax: 701-328-5200 Website: <http://www.health.state.nd.us>

There are three requirements made of an owner/operator for the permanent closure of an underground storage tank system in North Dakota. The first requirement is that the owner/operator must notify the Department thirty days prior to beginning permanent closure, unless such action is in response to corrective action. The Department requires that this be a written notification signed by the owner. As the date of permanent closure approaches, you may contact the Department by phone as to the exact time and date the closure is to take place.

The second requirement is that the underground storage tanks to be removed must be emptied and cleaned by removing all liquids and accumulated sludges. Please find enclosed API Publication 2015, "Cleaning Petroleum Storage Tanks" and API Bulletin 1604, "Recommend Practice for Abandonment or Removal of Used Underground Service Station Tanks." The Regulations for underground storage tank systems state that adherence to standard industry codes and practices, such as the two API publications enclosed, will satisfy these requirements.

Before completing permanent closure, the owner/operator is required to assess the site for contamination where a release from the tank system is most likely to be present. If the UST system is being physically removed from the ground the Department will allow a visual examination of the tank and excavation for signs of contamination (e.g., holes in the tank, free product, petroleum stained soils, etc.). If the UST system is being closed in place, the Department requires that soil borings be done to satisfy this requirement. The borings should be done as close to the tank as possible, and should extend at least five feet below the bottom of the tank.

If, during the closure process, contaminated soil, contaminated ground water or free product as a liquid or vapor is discovered, the owner/operator must contact the North Dakota State Department of Health within twenty-four hours. If upon removal, however, the tank shows no evidence of leakage and there is no apparent subsurface contamination, this Department will require no further sampling/measurement for contamination. In addition, after the closure is complete, the Department requests that an amended State Notification Form be completed and returned to this office indicating which underground storage tank systems were removed from service and which remain in service. Along with the amended State Notification Form, please attach a letter providing the following information:

1. The date of closure (i.e. closure in place or removal).
2. The location of the tanks.
3. The contractor responsible for the tank removal or closure in place.
4. The observed condition of the tank.
5. The observed condition of the excavation (i.e. evidence of leakage).
6. The type and amount of material removed from the tank, the method of disposal of the material removed from the tank.
7. The final disposition of the tank.

Records of the site assessment must be maintained for at least three years.